

2/1/05 AICG Meeting Notes

Attending: Lorene Guffey (chair), Leon Ben Jr. (co-chair), Bob Lineback (notes), Kirk Rowdabaugh, John Philbin, Wendell Peacock, Eddie Alford, Suraj Ahuja (ADEQ detailer), Davie Muller, Susan Lee, Cliff Pearlberg, Judy Wood, Ron Melcher.

AZ Firewise Committee: Judy Wood presented 5 efforts that the AZ Firewise Committee would like funding assistance on:

- 1) \$5000 for initial printing of the revised “Arizona Living with Fire FIREWISE guide”. Additional printings are likely with severity funding. Discussions about print size. Costs are 15 to 25 cents per copy. Kirk is to connect the Arizona Firewise Committee with the Arizona Forest Health Council’s subcommittee on public education. Apparently they have strong corporate and utility sponsorship, and may wish to help fund this.
- 2) Signs. 11 “home defensible space” (4’X5’) or “are you Firewise?” (3’X6’) signs have been funded at \$400-\$600 apiece; the note taker is not sure what communities these are for. If any agency wants additional signs for their kiosks, ranger station, visitor center, entrance to community etc., then they will have to purchase. Additional might be cheaper. Contact a member of the AZ Firewise Committee for more info.
- 3) \$20,000 to \$40,000 for production of “living with fire” binders and CD’s. Phase 1 and 2 of this project soon to be done. Interactive CD’s are for homeowners. Binders are for fire depts., agencies, community protection groups etc. in the state of Arizona. AICG felt this was a worthwhile project, but the amount of funding needs to be firmed up and the Firewise Committee will work on that. In the meantime, it was suggested that each AZ DOI agency (BLM, NPS, BIA, and FWS) put in at least \$5000 in their FY06 Community Assistance section of NFPORS to support this project. USFS does not use the Community Assistance section in NFPORS; Susan Lee was going to check into how the USFS could support this effort also.
- 4) Fire Management Exhibit Kiosks (\$12,000 each) have been planned and are to be built in Tucson, Sierra Vista, and Benson. They are 12’X20’X14’ in size (approx.) and have removable panels for changing exhibits. They are designed for park or town centers or certain urban state parks. If an individual agency wants one of these and has funding, contact the AZ Firewise Committee. Kirk will talk to the state parks to see if their might be some appropriate locations.
- 5) \$2000 to print hard copies of the “SW Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide”, (template and instructions). The SW CWPP guide was developed by Southwest Strategy and an electronic copy can be downloaded from the SW area grants section of the SW Strategy web site, (note taker does not have the web address). AICG decided that this is a changing format and process, new and better examples are being developed monthly, and that they recommend that it continue to be utilized as an electronic file that can be easily updated or downloaded for community reference. Apparently it is easy to download from the website.

Arizona Fire Academy: The 3rd annual is coming up in March and they hope to have 800-1000 attendees. Only 4 courses are full; there are lots of slots available in others. Late registration fees will be waived if you say you were referred to the courses by AICG. Some courses may be cancelled if more folks don’t sign up, (ICT3, I-400, I-401). March 20th week in Prescott.

Arizona Communities at Risk: Much discussion about what the revised list should consist of. It was decided that Ron Melcher would add together the following elements to comprise the new official Arizona list, (and he will send it to NFPORS central in Washington and post on the state website): 1) The revised 2001 Federal Register list from the last AICG meeting (some communities have been weeded out for various reasons), 2) The proposed “additional communities” spreadsheet that was passed out by Ron, 3) The “high” rated list from the Mike Fisher/BLM/AICG analysis of 2003, (Ron has the blessing of the group to go through the list and eliminate redundancies and combine small communities into larger units where it makes sense).

A process was agreed to for adding communities in the future to the official state list. Ron presented a form he had developed, that looks at a lot of the same things as the 2003 BLM/AICG analysis. He is going to check over that form again, and then it will be added to the state website where agencies can download it. Then (typically) AICG will look at the new forms that agencies send to the state once a year and the Arizona list will be updated.

An item for a **future agenda item** was discussed: Shall any “moderate” risk communities from the BLM/AICG 2003 Analysis (or even low) be added to the Arizona list? Shall the “low” communities on the 2001 Federal Register list be removed from the new state list?

There was also discussion about CWPP’s and we need to encourage “high” rated communities that have not started to develop one, to get on it, or perhaps if they feel there is not a high risk then they should be removed.

Mapping Fire Use Locations: Susan is trying to create a state map showing where WFU is allowed, and queried agencies upon what units allow. It appears it is allowed on the Kaibab NF, Coronado NF, Prescott NF, and Apache-Sitgreaves NF. NPS Units that will allow include Grand Canyon, Saguaro, and Chricahua. BLM has none, but is working on some. BIA has none, but heavily utilizes AMR to head in that direction. Suraj gave us a primer on AZ Title 18 (new air quality rules). It sounds like agencies are to submit a list of WFU areas to ADEQ annually by Jan. 31st. It sounds like that if you have not done so, then when you get a WFU start you need to notify ADEQ (when it gets to 50 acres?). Then within 72 hours you have to submit a WFU burn plan to ADEQ. You have to update ADEQ every 100 acres additional that is burned. There might be times when WFU must be shut down due to health concerns.

Map of Interagency Projects in FY05: Susan brought GIS maps of all the projects for FY05, (it includes non-NFP projects that were in NFPORS when she did the data pull). She also brought CD’s for each agency, and hard copy lists of the treatment name and location. Thanks Susan!

AICG Charter: The group discussed and reviewed the latest version, and made a few suggested updates and edits. Susan was OK’d to make the updates, pass the new charter to Pam McAlpin who will sign it as the chair for the SWCG.

Arizona Collaboration on FY06 Fuels Projects: Kirk brought up the 2003 MOU, signed by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, directing us to develop a state/federal collaborative process for prioritizing and selecting fuels treatments, (we were unsure if BIA ever signed onto the memo, but they seemed like they would like to be included in the Arizona process in the spirit of the National Fire Plan). After much discussion AICG set up an April 5 & 6 meeting where we will try and do this for FY06 projects. Kirk will find a meeting place. He also committed to using a state GIS person to download the NFPORS data and put it on a map. The map would include the AZ communities at risk, the condition classes, the state hazard areas and perhaps some other things. All agencies need to attempt to get their units to do NFPORS FY06 treatment submissions done before that meeting. All agencies agreed to emphasize local collaboration for FY06 treatments to their field units, and to have them document that in NFPORS, (in the notes section of each treatment? And/or at the project level with partners?). It was unclear how we would gather that data, but individual agencies should bring that info to the April meeting. Agencies should be versed in their FY06 projects when they come to the meeting, although it seemed like this might be a major challenge for the USFS due to the number of projects, and the fact that Forest Supervisors have considerable autonomy in how they meet their acre targets each year.

Arizona Smoke Interagency Agreement: The group went through draft #27 and made many changes. The DOI solicitor is reviewing the draft this week and those changes will need to be incorporated. Susan will update the draft and send out again. There is still a problem with the BIA/USFS exchange of funds for the assistant position that needs to be ironed out. Susan will rewrite the edited Annual Operating Plan that must go with the IA. The Annual Work Plan (also must go with the IA) had major edits and Susan will send it around again. It is important that we get this done so that the Tonto NF can get the funding transferred, and we can operate the smoke liaison position efficiently for the next 5 years. Thanks to Susan for all her follow through on this important issue.

Arizona CWPP Update: We ran out of time; Kirk would like to put it on the **next meeting agenda** as there are some communities that need to start developing. He had a handout that folks took home with them.

Next Meeting: April 5 & 6, Phoenix, Location to be announced.